

What is claimed is:

Sub B2
1. A carrier for the oral administration of an (active ingredient) to mammals comprising:

10-50% starch,

0-40% fat or oil,

8-50% polyhydric alcohol,

5-25% sugar

5-20% water, and

1-5% salt

said carrier having an A_w of about 0.60 to 0.75.

2. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the water content is about 10%.

3. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the polyhydric alcohol content is about 40%.

4. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the starch content is about 32%.

5. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the pregelatinized starch content is about 15%.

6. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a pharmaceutical.

7. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a nutraceutical.

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Sub B3

8. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is a vitamin and mineral mix.

9. The carrier of claim 1 where the A_w is 0.65 and the active ingredient is aspirin.

10. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is sorbitol.

11. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the sugar content is about 15%.

12. A method of making a carrier for an active ingredient for use in an oral administration of the active ingredient, comprising the steps of:

a) forming a matrix by mixing

10-50% starch,

0-40% fat or oil,

10-50% polyhydric alcohol,

5-25% sugar,

5-20% water, and

1-5% salt

b) adjusting the relative amounts of polyhydric alcohol and water to control the A_w of said carrier;

whereby the controlled A_w permits the moisture in the carrier to be at a level not inimical to the active ingredient.

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The method of claim ~~10~~ including the step of controlling the A_w to be at about 0.60 to about 0.75.

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The method of claim ~~10~~ including the step of adding aspirin as the active ingredient and controlling the A_w of said carrier to about 0.65.

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